

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday September 24, 2024, AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chair, District 3

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 1

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via AV Capture. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see:

https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of significant Discussions or Actions:

- No Public Comments
- Search and Rescue, Conservation staff (Community Wildfire Protection Plan- CWPP) request Title III funding. (*No decision made at the meeting*) BOCC asks CWPP for priorities; Wednesday the 25th is public meeting on results of the CWPP.
- 2 Public Hearings- Budget Supplemental Appropriations for Loomis Kiosk Survey and CE Clerk Training.
- Public Works Update: 1. Lost River Road, Foster Bridge repair, and asphalt pad at landfill. 2. Loomis Kiosk – looking at LTAC funds. 3. Twin Lakes Speed Study complete. 4. 1st draft on construction project. 5. Equipment needed to purchase – new guidelines for buying so many electric vehicles, along with diesel fueled ones.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:41, will return at 1:30 PM

9:00

Pledge of Allegiance

In reviewing the previous minutes, AH comments to the Clerical staff that his verbatim words are hard to hear, and feels they may be too detailed in the minutes....suggests maybe just type a summary of what is being said, rather than verbatim would be better. Both CB and JN weigh in on this too.

9:15

No Public Comments

9:22

CB and JN discuss more about the Loomis Kiosk right of way as defined by the recent survey.

9:30

Discussion/Requests for Title III funding.

Eli Loftus (EL) and two other staff from the Conservation District explain how the funding from the Forest Service and other grant request fell through. These were needed to continue funding the development and implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

AH asks if there are communities already set to go? EL – Yes, Omak, Okanogan are interested, as well as Nespelem and Crumbacher area. Also, there are 8 or 9 HOA's in the Methow Valley that would like to get started.

AH remarks that the Search and Rescue dollars will be coming out of these funds also. AH asks EL- if the BOCC did not fund 100%, would there be other ways to fund this? EL – We operate on a first come/first serve basis and we do have some funding from the Dept of Ecology. CB asks if there have been priorities established? *CB also asks whether they might need some help with this through the BOCC*

AH states that he is mostly inclined to fund Search and Rescue at this time.

Sheriffs' Office deputies Dave Yarnell (DY) and Rick Balam (RB) present for Search and Rescue (SAR) request for Title III funding. DY – We are asking for 100% of the \$140,000 to retain our part time SAR coordinator & operating costs. DY – we need extra gear – mostly replacement and getting personnel to rescue sites. *(I was unable to hear what RB had to say here. Appears to be addressing search protocol.)* DY – the grant we got did not cover all the radios. SAR is used to getting the hand-me-downs from the Sheriff's Office, but not the radios that are on different frequencies.

DY also explains that the new Command vehicle is being utilized on long, extended searches. *(RB talks about some other funding, but it is difficult to hear him again).*

10:00

CB asks the Conservation District staff to continue to look for other sources of funding.

AH ask if they have spoken with DNR about their 'Good Neighbor' stuff?

(CD staff acknowledge that they have spoken to the DNR but unable to hear what the response was.)

AH suggest that since they are working with HOA's, maybe the HOA's would be willing to help with the funding. CB – Would it help for the BOCC to do the priorities for you? That way, you don't have to get messed up in the politics. *(At this point, EL was not speaking into a mic so was unable to hear his response to this, however, it did seem positive for help from BOCC.)*

AH suggests that the Conservation District and Landfill should have a meeting to coordinate on the green waste.

10:08

(Sheriff's Office and Conservation District leave the meeting.)

10:10

CB and AH discuss the duties of the BOCC job and the fact of an upcoming new member to be decided. They discuss why only 3 members of the BOCC & other ideas.

10:30

Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriations -Parks and Recreation Fund 125 – Loomis Kiosk Survey. Josh Thomson (JT) County engineer explains how this survey was under \$5,000 so did not need 3 bidders. The survey was completed to find the property lines. There was no public comment and Resolution 127-2024 was approved.

10:35

Public hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriations – CE Clerk training. Court Clerk presents the staff report. No Public Comment. Resolution 1258-2024 approved for \$2,000.00.

10:36

Cari Hall (CH), County Auditor, in to discuss the Eagle Recording Software quote for all documents. There has been trouble with the server. This should remedy that. This new software interfaces with the new MUNIS system (*eventually*).

10:46

Contract with Eagle (Tyler Technologies) is approved for \$31,000 to begin with, then \$15,000 per year.

10:52

CB brings up the need for a BOCC member to be in the Forest Collaborative once he retires.

10:53

JT reports on Public Works projects in the works.

1. The county is continuing the Rip Rap on the Lost River Road – it just took 1 permit. The Foster Bridge repair will start on October 7th.
2. The landfill paving project is done.

AH to JT – the LTAC meeting is on Friday. Will need to discuss the Mazama Road project for parking.

11:06

AH – Regarding the Loomis Kiosk, we'll be asking for LTAC funds. JT – I am looking for a permit for the right of way. What is our time period? CB states that we would like to get it done soon.

JT reports on the Twin Lakes Road speed study, by the high school. The average speed was 30 mph, 45 mph on the Twin Lakes Road. JT will draft an order for a public hearing to lower the speed limit.

11:17

JT reports that CRAB board is changing their rules.

JT also has the first draft of the construction program.

The Chesaw drainage project will be for next year, along with the guardrail project.

JT – I have my equipment list for purchase. We will need 2 dump trucks, a grader, a compacter, and a water truck. Washington State is now adopting California's law which requires that 1 in 5 vehicles purchased be an electric one. It is difficult to find electric trucks.

CB – There needs to be an incentive for buying electric, like there was for cars. JT reports that electric trucks are not available.

AH asks how much leasing costs? JT – we looked at that a few years ago, and it wasn't feasible.

(There is a lot of discussion regarding electric vehicles versus the usual diesel ones.)

JN notes that he has seen the electric trucks in Canada.

AH wonders who is making the electric trucks.

JT has talked with other counties about this dilemma and has found that no one is ordering the electric trucks so far. There is an exemption for military, fire, and police, but not counties.

JT – I'm not opposed to trying.

CB- Questions who is driving the technology? Who is telling the lawmakers about this technology being available?

11:41

Meeting is adjourned until 1:30 PM